

10/525188
DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 FEB 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A spearhead assembly comprising:
a base having an outer surface composed of a plurality of contiguous surface portions where mutually adjacent surface portions lie in, or have, relatively inclined planes or relatively inclined tangential planes;
a slot formed in one of said base and opening onto said plurality of surface portions;
a spearpoint having a proximal end located in said slot and pivotally coupled to said base and a distal end projecting from said slot and beyond said surface portions; and
a spearpoint positioning system for urging said spearpoint toward one of a plurality of angularly spaced positions, respective ones of said positions characterized by said spearpoint extending perpendicular to the plane or tangential plane of an adjacent surface portion.
2. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said spearpoint positioning system comprises a plate through which said spearpoint extends, said plate retained on said spearpoint in a position where said plate contacts said outer surface.
3. (Original) The assembly according to claim 2, wherein said spearpoint positioning system further comprises a biasing device which urges said spearpoint into said one of a plurality of positions and holds said spearpoint in aid one of a plurality of positions.
4. (Original) The assembly according to claim 3, wherein said biasing device biases said plate against said outer surface.

5. (Currently amended) The assembly according to ~~any one of claims 2—4~~ claim 2, wherein said plurality of contiguous surface portions comprises a first surface which lies in a plane substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said base, where said plate lies against said first surface, said spearpoint is in a first position where it extends substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

6. (Original) The assembly according to claim 5, wherein said first surface is planar.

7. (Currently amended) The assembly according to ~~claim 5 or 6~~ claim 6, wherein said plurality of surface portions comprises a second surface, said second surface formed about said longitudinal axis, whereby when said plate lies against said second surface, said spearpoint is in a second position extending substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) The assembly according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of surface portions comprises a third surface located between said first and second surfaces, said third surface configured so that when said plate lies against said third surface, said spearpoint is in a third position angularly spaced between said first and second positions.

9. (Original) The assembly according to claim 8, wherein said third surface is configured so that when said spearpoint is in said third position, said spearpoint extends at substantially 45° to said longitudinal axis.

10. (Currently amended) The assembly according to ~~any one of claims 2—9~~ claim 5, wherein said plate has a peripheral edge which is substantially co-extensive with a peripheral edge of said first surface when said plate is parallel to said first surface.

11. (Currently amended) The assembly according to ~~any one of claims 2—9~~ claim 7, wherein said plate ~~may have~~ has a peripheral surface which extends to, or beyond, said second surface when said plate is parallel to said first surface.

12. (Original) A spearpoint assembly comprising:

a base having an outer surface;

a slot formed in one end of said base, said slot comprising a plurality of continuous lengths each of which opens onto said outer surface, and where mutually adjacent lengths of said slot lie in respective inclined planes;

a spearpoint having a proximal end located in said slot and pivotally coupled to said base and a distal end projecting from said slot and beyond said outer surface; and

a spearpoint positioning system for urging said spearpoint into one of a plurality of angularly spaced positions in which said spearpoint extends perpendicularly to the plane of the length of said slot from which said spearpoint extends.

13. (Original) The assembly according to claim 12, wherein said spearpoint positioning system comprises a plate through which said spearpoint extends, said plate retained on said spearpoint in a position where said plate contacts said outer surface.

14. (Original) The assembly according to claim 13, wherein said spearpoint positioning system further comprises a biasing device which urges said spearpoint into said one of a plurality of positions and holds said spearpoint in said one of a plurality of positions.

15. (Original) The assembly according to claim 14, wherein said biasing device biases said plate against said outer surface.

16. (Currently amended) The assembly according to ~~any one of claims 12—14~~ claim 13, wherein said plurality of lengths comprise a first length which lies in a first plane which is

perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said base, whereby when said plate lies against said first length said spearpoint is in a first position extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

17. (Original) The assembly according to claim 16, wherein said plurality of lengths comprise a second length which is parallel to said longitudinal axis, whereby when said plate lies against said second length, said spearpoint is in a second position extending substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis.

18. (Original) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein said plurality of lengths comprise a third length located between said first and second lengths, whereby when said plate lies against said third length, said spearpoint is in a third position angularly spaced between said first and second positions.

19. (Currently amended) The assembly according to claim 18, wherein said ~~third~~ length lies in a third plane which extends at substantially 45° to said longitudinal axis.

20. (Currently amended) The assembly according to any ~~one of claims 12-19 claim~~ claim 16, wherein said plate has a peripheral edge which is substantially co-extensive with a peripheral edge of said first ~~surface plane~~ when said plate is parallel to said first ~~surface plane~~.

21. (Currently amended) The assembly according to ~~any one of claims 12-19 claim~~ claim 17, wherein said plate has a peripheral surface which extends to, or beyond, said second ~~surface length~~ when said plate is parallel to said first ~~surface plane~~.

22. (Original) A spearhead assembly comprising:
a base provided with a slot at first end, said slot opening onto a plurality of sequentially contiguous outer surface portions of said base;

a spearpoint having a proximal end pivotally coupled to the base and disposed in said slot, and a distal end extending beyond said base; and

a spearpoint positioning system for urging said spearpoint toward one of a plurality of angularly spaced positions related to said surface portions.

23. (Original) The assembly according to claim 22, wherein each of said plurality of positions is characterized by said spearpoint extending substantially perpendicular to a plane containing parallel opposite edges of said slot flanking respective ones of said surfaces.